

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 13, 17, 21, and 26 are independent. Claims 1, 13, 17, 21, 26, and 28-31 are hereby amended. Claim 27 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter. No new matter has been added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Ahmed during the telephonic interview held on April 15, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR § 1.116 since the amendment places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein), does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (because the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout the prosecution), satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action, does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims, and places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. During the telephonic interview on April 15, 2009, Examiner Ahmed agreed that this Amendment would be entered.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2

On page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons set forth below, addressing each rejection separately.

For claims 1-12, the Office Action alleges that independent claim 1 is indefinite for not “clearly specifying” what synchronizes the routing tables. In response, Applicant hereby adds “to each other” after “synchronizes said routing tables” in claim 1. This subject matter finds support, for example, in paragraph [0024] of the specification.

For claims 13-16, the Office Action alleges that claim 13 omits the relationships of the update agent plane, control plane, and data plane. In response, Applicant hereby amends claim 13 to recite all of the listed planes.

For claims 17-20, the Office Action alleges that independent claim 17 is indefinite for not specifying synchronization of the routing table information. In response, Applicant hereby adds “to other routing tables” in claim 17.

For claims 21-25, the Office Action alleges that claim 21 does not specify what synchronizes the tables. In response, Applicant hereby adds “to each other” after “synchronizes said routing tables” and “synchronizes said forwarding tables” in claim 21.

For claim 26, the Office Action alleges that "said forwarding tables" lack a proper antecedent. In response, Applicant hereby deletes "said."

For claims 26-31, the Office Action alleges that claim 26 does not specify what synchronizes the routing tables. In response, Applicant hereby adds "to each other" after "synchronizes said routing tables" in claim 26.

For claim 26, the Office Action alleges that the relationship between the first and second network elements is not specified and questions whether the elements comprise routers. In response, Applicant hereby amends claim 26 to recite that the first network element and the second network element are each comprised of a router. This subject matter finds support in the specification, for example, on the last two lines of paragraph [0010].

For claim 27, the Office Action alleges that the update agent plane is unclear. In response, Applicant hereby changes "an update agent plane" to the separate update agent plane" to match the antecedent in claim 26. In addition, as suggested during the telephonic interview on April 15, 2009, Applicant hereby incorporates the subject matter of claim 27 into claim 26. Accordingly, Applicant cancels claim 27 without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 13, 17, 21, and 26 are allowable. Claims 2-12, 14-16, 18-20, 22-25, and 28-31 respectively depend from allowable claims 1, 13, 17, 21, and 26. Thus, Applicant respectfully

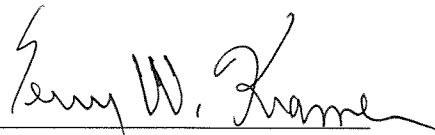
submits that claims 2-12, 14-16, 18-20, 22-25, and 28-31 are allowable at least on the basis of their respective dependencies upon allowable independent claims. Claim 27 is canceled. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.



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Date: April 16, 2009

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